UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

SHIVA STEIN,

Plaintiff, : Civil Action No. 1:21-cv-8474

V.

DSP GROUP, INC., KENNETH H. TRAUB, OFER ELYAKIM, TOM LACEY, CYNTHIA PAUL, YAIR SEROUSSI, NORM P. TAFFE, and SHIRA FAYANS BIRENBAUM,

COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATIONS OF
 SECTIONS 14(a) AND 20(a) OF THE
 SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF

1934

: JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Defendants.

Shiva Stein ("Plaintiff"), by and through her attorneys, alleges the following upon information and belief, including investigation of counsel and review of publicly-available information, except as to those allegations pertaining to Plaintiff, which are alleged upon personal knowledge:

- 1. This is an action brought by Plaintiff against DSP Group, Inc. ("DSP Group or the "Company") and the members DSP Group, Inc. board of directors (the "Board" or the "Individual Defendants" and collectively with the Company, the "Defendants") for their violations of Sections 14(a) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"), in connection with the proposed acquisition of DSP Group by Synaptics Incorporated ("Synaptics") and its affiliates.
- 2. Defendants have violated the above-referenced Sections of the Exchange Act by causing a materially incomplete and misleading Preliminary Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A (the "Proxy Statement") to be filed on October 13, 2021 with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and disseminated to Company stockholders. The Proxy

Statement recommends that Company stockholders vote in favor of a proposed transaction whereby Osprey Merger Sub, Inc. ("Merger Sub"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Synaptics, will merge with and into DSP Group with DSP Group surviving the merger and becoming a wholly owned subsidiary of Synaptics (the "Proposed Transaction"). Pursuant to the terms of the definitive agreement and plan of merger the companies entered into (the "Merger Agreement") each DSP Group common share issued and outstanding will be converted into the right to receive \$22.00 in cash (the "Merger Consideration").

- 3. As discussed below, Defendants have asked DSP Group stockholders to support the Proposed Transaction based upon the materially incomplete and misleading representations and information contained in the Proxy Statement, in violation of Sections 14(a) and 20(a) of the Exchange Act. Specifically, the Proxy Statement contains materially incomplete and misleading information concerning the Company's financial forecasts and financial analyses conducted by the financial advisors of the Company, Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC ("Goldman Sachs") in support of its fairness opinion, and relied upon by the Board in recommending the Company's stockholders vote in favor of the Proposed Transaction.
- 4. It is imperative that the material information that has been omitted from the Proxy Statement is disclosed to the Company's stockholders prior to the forthcoming stockholder vote so that they can properly exercise their corporate suffrage rights.
- 5. For these reasons and as set forth in detail herein, Plaintiff seeks to enjoin Defendants from taking any steps to consummate the Proposed Transaction unless and until the material information discussed below is disclosed to DSP Group stockholders or, in the event the Proposed Transaction is consummated, to recover damages resulting from the Defendants' violations of the Exchange Act.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 6. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to Section 27 of the Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. § 78aa) and 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question jurisdiction) as Plaintiff alleges violations of Section 14(a) and 20(a) of the Exchange Act and SEC Rule 14a-9.
- 7. Personal jurisdiction exists over each Defendant either because the Defendant conducts business in or maintains operations in this District, or is an individual who is either present in this District for jurisdictional purposes or has sufficient minimum contacts with this District as to render the exercise of jurisdiction over defendant by this Court permissible under traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.
- 8. Venue is proper in this District under Section 27 of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78aa, as well as under 28 U.S.C. § 1391, because the financial advisor of the Company is headquartered in this District, and the Company is traded on the NASDAQ Stock Exchange, also headquartered in this District.

PARTIES

- 9. Plaintiff is, and has been at all relevant times, the owner of DSP Group common stock and has held such stock since prior to the wrongs complained of herein.
- 10. Individual Defendant Kenneth H. Traub has served as a member of the Board sinceMay 2012 and Chairman of the Board since May 2017.
- 11. Individual Defendant Ofer Elyakim has served as a member of the Board since May2011 and is the Company's Chief Executive Officer.
- 12. Individual Defendant Tom Lacey has served as a member of the Board since May 2012.
- 13. Individual Defendant Cynthia Paul has served as a member of the Board since April 2018.

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- 14. Individual Defendant Yair Seroussi has served as a member of the Board since February 2002.
- 15. Individual Defendant Norm P. Taffe has served as a member of the Board since May 2013.
- 16. Individual Defendant Shira Fayans Birenbaum has served as a member of the Board since April 2021.
- 17. Defendant DSP Group is incorporated in Delaware and maintains its principal offices at 2055 Gateway Place, Suite 480, San Jose, California 95110. The Company's common stock trades on the NASDAQ Stock Exchange under the symbol "DSPG."
- 18. The defendants identified in paragraphs 10-16 are collectively referred to as the "Individual Defendants" or the "Board."
- 19. The defendants identified in paragraphs 10-17 are collectively referred to as the "Defendants."

SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS

A. The Proposed Transaction

20. DSP Group, a fabless semiconductor company, provides wireless chipset solutions. It operates through three segments: Home, Unified Communications, and SmartVoice. The Home segment offers wireless chipset solutions for converged communication at home, including integrated circuits for cordless phones, home gateway devices, integrated circuits addressing home automation applications, and fixed-mobile convergence solutions. The Unified Communications segment offers solution for unified communications products, including office solutions that offer businesses VoIP terminals with converged voice and data applications. The SmartVoice segment offers products for the SmartVoice market that provide voice activation and recognition, voice enhancement, always-on and far-end noise elimination that target mobile phones, mobile headsets,

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and other devices. The Company markets and distributes its products through direct sales and marketing offices; and a network of global distributors to original equipment manufacturers and original design manufacturers. It has operations in the United States, Europe, Israel, Hong Kong, China, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, India, Switzerland, and internationally. DSP Group has collaboration with Cloud of Things to introduce IoT cloud services gateway. DSP Group was incorporated in 1987 and is headquartered in San Jose, California.

21. On August 30, 2021, DSP Group and Synapse jointly announced that they had entered into a proposed transaction:

SAN JOSE, Calif., Aug. 30, 2021 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -Synaptics Incorporated (Nasdaq: <u>SYNA</u>) and DSP Group, Inc.
(Nasdaq: <u>DSPG</u>) today announced the signing of a definitive
agreement, unanimously approved by the boards of directors of both
companies, whereby Synaptics acquires DSP Group, a leading
global provider of voice and wireless chipset solutions for
converged communications, at \$22.00 per share in an all-cash
transaction. The combination is anticipated to generate annual run
rate synergies of \$30 million for the new entity to be realized within
12 months of closing and is immediately accretive to Synaptics' nonGAAP earnings. The transaction is expected to be financed through
a combination of cash on hand and a fully committed, incremental
debt financing arrangement with a projected close by the end of
calendar year 2021, subject to DSP Group shareholder approval and
customary closing conditions.

DSP Group has leadership positions across multiple markets in the Internet of Audio Things (IoAT) with significant growth opportunities in low power SmartVoice, unified communications & collaboration, and wireless IoT devices. Most of these solutions are quite relevant to Synaptics' existing customer base, furthering the strategy of cross-selling portfolio devices.

Synaptics recently announced its Low Power Edge AI initiative, which opens a significant long-term opportunity with ABI research predicting approximately 2.5 billion TinyML units to be sold by 2030. The addition of DSP Group's best-in-class SmartVoice products to Synaptics' Katana smart vision platform creates a complete portfolio that can both serve existing customer needs and address the significant future market. In addition, the combination

further strengthens Synaptics' industry-leading wireless connectivity portfolio by adding DECT Ultra Low Energy (ULE), which enables a fully-featured intelligent home security solution.

"We continue to invest in technologies that tilt our product mix toward IoT applications," said Michael Hurlston, President and CEO of Synaptics. "DSP Group's expertise in SmartVoice and ULE wireless solutions, coupled with Synaptics' leadership position in far-field speech recognition and IoT directed Wi-Fi/BT combos enables us to deliver increasingly differentiated solutions to our combined customer base, while positioning us to lead the transition to AI enabled devices at the edge of the network."

"We are excited to join forces with Synaptics, a recognized leader in products for IoT. This combination provides a great result for our shareholders who have supported us through this journey, delivering meaningful and certain value," said Ofer Elyakim, CEO of DSP Group. "Our complementary portfolios together with the combination of our world-class engineering teams creates an exciting opportunity for DSP Group's core technology to extend further into our existing customers' product portfolio."

"The DSP Group board of directors unanimously supports this transaction as it represents an excellent outcome for our shareholders," commented Ken Traub, Chairman of the Board of Directors, DSP Group. "We would like to thank DSP Group's management and employees for their dedication to executing our strategy and congratulate them on this exciting achievement."

Advisors

Goodwin Procter LLP is serving as legal counsel and Barclays is providing committed financing to Synaptics. Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC is serving as financial advisor and Morrison & Foerster LLP is serving as legal counsel to DSP Group.

22. The Board has unanimously approved the Proposed Transaction. It is therefore imperative that DSP Group's stockholders are provided with the material information that has been omitted from the Proxy Statement, so that they can meaningfully assess whether or not the Proposed Transaction is in their best interests prior to the forthcoming stockholder vote.

B. The Materially Incomplete and Misleading Proxy Statement

23. On October 13, 2021 DSP Group filed the Proxy Statement with the SEC in connection with the Proposed Transaction. The Proxy Statement was furnished to the Company's stockholders and solicits the stockholders to vote in favor of the Proposed Transaction. The Individual Defendants were obligated to carefully review the Proxy Statement before it was filed with the SEC and disseminated to the Company's stockholders to ensure that it did not contain any material misrepresentations or omissions. However, the Proxy Statement misrepresents and/or omits material information that is necessary for the Company's stockholders to make an informed decision concerning whether to vote in favor of the Proposed Transaction, in violation of Sections 14(a) and 20(a) of the Exchange Act.

Omissions and/or Material Misrepresentations Concerning DSP Group Financial Projections

24. The Proxy Statement fails to provide material information concerning financial projections by DSP Group management and relied upon by Goldman Sachs in its analysis. The Proxy Statement discloses management-prepared financial projections for the Company which are materially misleading. The Proxy Statement indicates that in connection with the rendering of its fairness opinion, that the Company prepared certain non-public financial forecasts (the "Company Projections") and provided them to the Board and the financial advisors with forming a view about the stand-alone valuation of the Company. Accordingly, the Proxy Statement should have, but fails to provide, certain information in the projections that DSP Group management provided to the Board and the financial advisors. Courts have uniformly stated that "projections … are probably among the most highly-prized disclosures by investors. Investors can come up with their own estimates of discount rates or [] market multiples. What they cannot hope to do is replicate management's inside view of the company's prospects." *In re Netsmart Techs., Inc. S'holders Litig.*, 924 A.2d 171, 201-203 (Del. Ch. 2007).

- 25. For the Company Projections, the Proxy Statement provides values for non-GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) financial metric: EBITDA, but fails to provide line items used to calculate these metrics and/or a reconciliation of these non-GAAP metric to its most comparable GAAP measure, in direct violation of Regulation G and consequently Section 14(a).
- 26. When a company discloses non-GAAP financial measures in a Proxy Statement that were relied on by a board of directors to recommend that stockholders exercise their corporate suffrage rights in a particular manner, the company must, pursuant to SEC regulatory mandates, also disclose all projections and information necessary to make the non-GAAP measures not misleading, and must provide a reconciliation (by schedule or other clearly understandable method) of the differences between the non-GAAP financial measure disclosed or released with the most comparable financial measure or measures calculated and presented in accordance with GAAP. 17 C.F.R. § 244.100.

27. The SEC has noted that:

companies should be aware that this measure does not have a uniform definition and its title does not describe how it is calculated. Accordingly, a clear description of how this measure is calculated, as well as the necessary reconciliation, should accompany the measure where it is used. Companies should also avoid inappropriate or potentially misleading inferences about its usefulness. For example, "free cash flow" should not be used in a manner that inappropriately implies that the measure represents the residual cash flow available for discretionary expenditures, since many companies have mandatory debt service requirements or other non-discretionary expenditures that are not deducted from the measure.\(^1\)

28. Thus, to cure the Proxy Statement and the materially misleading nature of the forecasts under SEC Rule 14a-9 as a result of the omitted information in the Proxy Statement,

¹ U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, Non-GAAP Financial Measures, last updated April 4, 2018, available at: https://www.sec.gov/divisions/corpfin/guidance/nongaapinterp.htm

Defendants must provide a reconciliation table of the non-GAAP measure to the most comparable GAAP measure to make the non-GAAP metric included in the Proxy Statement not misleading.

Omissions and/or Material Misrepresentations Concerning Goldman Sachs's Financial Analysis

- 29. With respect to Goldman Sachs' *Illustrative Discounted Cash Flow Analysis* for the Company, the Proxy Statement fails to disclose: (i) the projected terminal values for the Company; (ii) the inputs and assumptions underlying the use of perpetuity growth rates of 2.5% to 3.5%; (iii) the inputs and assumptions underlying the range of discount rates ranging from 8.0% to 9.0%; and (iv) net cash of the Company.
- 30. With respect to Goldman Sachs' *Illustrative Present Value of Future Share Price Analysis*, the Proxy Statement fails to disclose: (i) the inputs and assumptions underlying the range of enterprise value to forward revenue multiples of 2.0x to 3.0x; (ii) Company's net cash as of December 31, for each of the fiscal years 2021 to 2024; (iii) the number of fully diluted shares of Company stock as of December 31; (iv) the inputs and assumptions underlying the discount rate of 8.5%; and (v) the Company's cost of equity.
- 31. With respect to Goldman Sachs's *Selected Companies Analysis*, the Proxy Statement fails to disclose the individual multiples and metrics for the companies observed by Goldman Sachs in the analysis.
- 32. In sum, the omission of the above-referenced information renders statements in the Proxy Statement materially incomplete and misleading in contravention of the Exchange Act. Absent disclosure of the foregoing material information prior to the special stockholder meeting to vote on the Proposed Transaction, Plaintiff will be unable to make a fully-informed decision regarding whether to vote in favor of the Proposed Transaction, and she is thus threatened with irreparable harm, warranting the injunctive relief sought herein.

CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

COUNT I

On Behalf of Plaintiff Against All Defendants for Violations of Section 14(a) of the Exchange Act and Rule 14a-9 and 17 C.F.R. § 244.100

- 33. Plaintiff incorporates each and every allegation set forth above as if fully set forth herein.
- 34. Rule 14a-9, promulgated by the SEC pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Exchange Act, provides that proxy communications with stockholders shall not contain "any statement which, at the time and in the light of the circumstances under which it is made, is false or misleading with respect to any material fact, or which omits to state any material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein not false or misleading." 17 C.F.R. § 240.14a-9.
- 35. Defendants have issued the Proxy Statement with the intention of soliciting stockholder support for the Proposed Transaction. Each of the Defendants reviewed and authorized the dissemination of the Proxy Statement and the use of their name in the Proxy Statement, which fails to provide critical information regarding, among other things, financial analysis that were prepared by Goldman Sachs and relied upon by the Board in recommending the Company's stockholders vote in favor of the Proposed Transaction.
- 36. In so doing, Defendants made untrue statements of fact and/or omitted material facts necessary to make the statements made not misleading. Each of the Individual Defendants, by virtue of their roles as officers and/or directors, were aware of the omitted information but failed to disclose such information, in violation of Section 14(a). The Individual Defendants were therefore negligent, as they had reasonable grounds to believe material facts existed that were misstated or omitted from the Proxy Statement, but nonetheless failed to obtain and disclose such information to stockholders although they could have done so without extraordinary effort.

- 37. Defendants were, at the very least, negligent in preparing and reviewing the Proxy Statement. The preparation of a Proxy Statement by corporate insiders containing materially false or misleading statements or omitting a material fact constitutes negligence. Defendants were negligent in choosing to omit material information from the Proxy Statement or failing to notice the material omissions in the Proxy Statement upon reviewing it, which they were required to do carefully. Indeed, Defendants were intricately involved in the process leading up to the signing of the Merger Agreement and the preparation and review of strategic alternatives and the Company's financial projections.
- 38. The misrepresentations and omissions in the Proxy Statement are material to Plaintiff, who will be deprived of her right to cast an informed vote if such misrepresentations and omissions are not corrected prior to the vote on the Proposed Transaction. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law. Only through the exercise of this Court's equitable powers can Plaintiff be fully protected from the immediate and irreparable injury that Defendants' actions threaten to inflict.

COUNT II

On Behalf of Plaintiff Against the Individual Defendants for Violations of Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act

- 39. Plaintiff incorporates each and every allegation set forth above as if fully set forth herein.
- 40. The Individual Defendants acted as controlling persons of DSP Group within the meaning of Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act as alleged herein. By virtue of their positions as directors of DSP Group, and participation in and/or awareness of the Company's operations and/or intimate knowledge of the incomplete and misleading statements contained in the Proxy Statement filed with the SEC, they had the power to influence and control and did influence and control,

directly or indirectly, the decision making of DSP Group, including the content and dissemination of the various statements that Plaintiff contends are materially incomplete and misleading.

- 41. Each of the Individual Defendants was provided with or had unlimited access to copies of the Proxy Statement and other statements alleged by Plaintiff to be misleading prior to and/or shortly after these statements were issued and had the ability to prevent the issuance of the statements or cause the statements to be corrected.
- 42. In particular, each of the Individual Defendants had direct and supervisory involvement in the day-to-day operations of DSP Group, and, therefore, is presumed to have had the power to control or influence the particular transactions giving rise to the Exchange Act violations alleged herein, and exercised the same. The omitted information identified above was reviewed by the Board prior to voting on the Proposed Transaction. The Proxy Statement at issue contains the unanimous recommendation of the Board to approve the Proposed Transaction. The Individual Defendants were thus directly involved in the making of the Proxy Statement.
- 43. In addition, as the Proxy Statement sets forth at length, and as described herein, the Individual Defendants were involved in negotiating, reviewing, and approving the Merger Agreement. The Proxy Statement purports to describe the various issues and information that the Individual Defendants reviewed and considered. The Individual Defendants participated in drafting and/or gave their input on the content of those descriptions.
- 44. By virtue of the foregoing, the Individual Defendants have violated Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act.
- 45. As set forth above, the Individual Defendants had the ability to exercise control over and did control a person or persons who have each violated Section 14(a) and Rule 14a-9, by their acts and omissions as alleged herein. By virtue of their positions as controlling persons, these

defendants are liable pursuant to Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act. As a direct and proximate result of Individual Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff will be irreparably harmed.

46. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law. Only through the exercise of this Court's equitable powers can Plaintiff be fully protected from the immediate and irreparable injury that Defendants' actions threaten to inflict.

RELIEF REQUESTED

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands injunctive relief in her favor and against the Defendants jointly and severally, as follows:

- A. Preliminarily and permanently enjoining Defendants and their counsel, agents, employees and all persons acting under, in concert with, or for them, from proceeding with, consummating, or closing the Proposed Transaction, unless and until Defendants disclose the material information identified above which has been omitted from the Proxy Statement;
- B. Rescinding, to the extent already implemented, the Merger Agreement or any of the terms thereof, or granting Plaintiff rescissory damages;
- C. Directing the Defendants to account to Plaintiff for all damages suffered as a result of their wrongdoing;
- D. Awarding Plaintiff the costs and disbursements of this action, including reasonable attorneys' and expert fees and expenses; and
- E. Granting such other and further equitable relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury.

Dated: October 14, 2021 MELWANI & CHAN LLP

By: _/s Gloria Kui Melwani

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